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Region 5

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Additional Air Testing Planned for Willowbrook, Ill., EtO Emissions

Key Message: U.S. Rep. Foster and state and local elected officials have asked EPA to conduct ambient sampling to measure whether levels of ethylene oxide are lower as a result of the recent installation of new air pollution controls by Sterigenics. The company has indicated that it plans to schedule a stack test at the facility this weekend to measure its direct emissions post control installation. The company has also shared recent modeling results, and has asked for the region to review their data and methodologies. The Region continues to work cooperatively with the Illinois EPA, local officials and the company.

This spring, Region 5 monitoring detected elevated levels of ethylene oxide near the Sterigenics facility in the community. A report published by ATSDR shows an elevated cancer risk exists for residents and off-site workers, assuming chronic exposure. Region 5 is working with Illinois EPA and Sterigenics to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from the company's facility. In July, the company installed additional pollution controls to capture ethylene oxide emissions.

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